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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import/Export

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Subject: Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC) Interim Rule and the Importation of Susceptible Fish Species

To: Importers, Brokers, and Other Interested Parties

This correspondence provides information on the importation into the United States of certain live fish species that are susceptible to SVC disease. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published an interim rule on August 30, 2006, entitled "Spring Viremia of Carp: Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish, Fertilized Eggs, and Gametes." These regulations become effective on September 29, 2006, and will govern the importation of eight live species of fish into the United States. **As of September 29, 2006, the following live species of fish will have additional requirements under which they may be imported into the United States:**

- Common carp, including koi (*Cyprinus carpio*);
- Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*);
- Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- Bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*);
- Crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*);
- Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*);
- Tench (*Tinca tinca*); and
- Sheatfish (*Silurus glanis*).

Live fish of these species, their fertilized eggs, and gametes may be imported into the United States if they are accompanied by an import permit (Veterinary Services [VS] Form 135) and an official health certificate. An application for the import permit (VS Form 129) may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/pdf/vs17-129.pdf>. Instructions for this form are located at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/pdf_files/vs17-129-cover.pdf.

Live fish of these species, their fertilized eggs, and gametes may transit the United States if accompanied by an import permit and if certain conditions are met to ensure that SVC is not introduced or spread to any fish populations in the United States. A health certificate is not required for transiting fish of these species.

The rule also contains details about the limited U.S. ports of entry through which SVC-susceptible fish, their fertilized eggs, and gametes may be imported.



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This document is not intended to provide complete details for the importation of live fish species that are susceptible to SVC. For additional information, the interim rule may be viewed at the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>; and in the lower "**Search Regulations and Federal Actions**" box, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, and then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2006-0107 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link.

If you have additional questions about the requirements to import live fish species that are susceptible to SVC, please contact the National Center for Import and Export at (301) 734-8364 and request to speak to the Aquaculture Specialist.



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